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January 4th, 1853.

MR. ORD, President, in the Chair.

A letter was read from the Hon. J. P. Kennedy, Secretary of the Navy, dated Navy Department, Washington, Dec. 25th, 1852, acknowledging the receipt of a copy of the Preamble and Resolutions adopted by the Academy on the 14th of that month, approving the recommendations and suggestions contained in his recent report to the President, and his efforts for "the encouragement of missions tending to promote scientific researches in our own and other countries."

The Secretary also expresses to the Academy "his peculiar pleasure in taking advantage of the opportunity to signalize, by an official commendation, the meritorious labors of their fellow member Dr. Kane, and to enable him, with such aid as he could bestow, once more to embark upon a sea of adventure, in which his philanthropy and love of science have already won him equal and imperishable honor: and also trusted, that with the support of the Academy, and the countenance of the Government, he would return after his second Expedition to the Arctic Circle, with new claims to the congratulations of his friends, and the applause of his country."

A letter was read from Mr. J. P. Lapham, dated Milwaukie, Wisconsin, Dec. 16, 1852, offering to exchange specimens of objects of Natural History for copies of the Journal and Proceedings. Referred to the Publication Committee and the Curators, with power to act.

January 11th.

MR. ORD, President, in the Chair.

A communication was read from the Geological Society of London, dated Nov. 4th, 1852, acknowledging the receipt of late numbers of the Proceedings.

A communication was also read from Prof. Frazer, Chairman of a Committee appointed by the American Philosophical Society, "to act in concert with Dr. Kane, and such societies as have determined to act in concert with him, in carrying out the scientific objects of the projected Arctic Expedition," dated 30th Dec. 1852, expressing the desire of the Committee to give their assistance in any plan for forwarding the objects of the Expedition, which the Academy might think proper to suggest. Referred to the Committee previously appointed on this subject.

Dr. Le Conte read a paper intended for publication in the Proceedings of the Academy, entitled "Descriptions of twenty new species of Coleoptera inhabiting the United States;" which was referred to Dr. Zantinger, Dr. Pickering and Dr. Leidy.

Dr. Woodhouse presented a paper for publication in the Proceedings,